



## **Headwaters Resource Management Plan Amendment Fact Sheet – September 1, 2015**

### Basic Facts

- The Headwaters Forest Reserve (Headwaters) consists of 7,500 acres acquired for public ownership in 1999 to protect the world's last unprotected, large stand of old-growth redwood forest.
- Approximately 60% of Headwaters was entered for timber harvest prior to 1999, which left a legacy of overstocked, unnatural, regenerating stands.

### Forest Restoration

- The Headwaters Resource Management Plan (RMP), completed in 2004, established a priority to restore second-growth forests to achieve old-growth characteristics.
- The 2004 RMP set limits on the Headwaters forest restoration program, including:
  - Two to three entries allowed in shrub-sapling stands, only one entry allowed in pole stands.
  - Focus thinning on Douglas-fir, not redwood.
  - Only trees up to 12 inches in diameter may be cut.
  - No material may be removed from site.
  - No management of fuels in old-growth forest and generally no fuels management in early-mature forest.
  - No broadcast burning, or prescribed fire.
- Since 2004, the BLM has completed a first round of thinning on ~1,600 acres (see page 2 for a detailed map). Outcomes have included:
  - Short-term growth rate increases for retained trees.
  - Restored species composition towards redwood over Douglas fir.
  - Increased fuel loading.

### Science and Research

- The BLM has partnered with Humboldt State University, USGS and Redwood National and State Parks on several research projects examining restoration of second-growth redwood forest. Some basic takeaways are:
  - Modeling data suggests more than one thinning is needed to set stands on trajectory towards old-growth (Berrill et al 2013).
  - Relatively uncrowded areas are needed for long-term increases in growth (Van Mantgem and Das 2014).
  - Lop and scatter thinning treatments may create fire hazards that threaten the goals of forest restoration (Glebocki 2015).

### Goals of Proposed Amendment:

- 2004 goals and objectives will remain unchanged – restore second-growth forests to achieve old-growth characteristics.
- Continue highly successful Headwaters forest restoration program.
- Increase tools available for forest restoration.
- Use results of recent research to guide forest restoration program (adaptive management).



- Provide for consistency with the restoration programs at Redwood National and State Parks.

For more information visit the BLM Headwaters website at <http://blm.gov/crld>

## How to Comment on the RMP Amendment

The BLM is looking for public input as it begins the process of drafting an amendment to the 2004 Headwaters RMP. To submit comments on the Headwaters RMP:

1. Complete a comment form in person at the BLM Arcata Field Office
2. Submit a comment via email to [headwaters@blm.gov](mailto:headwaters@blm.gov)
3. Send a comment to the following address:  
Bureau of Land Management  
Attn: Ben Blom  
1695 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521

